



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, telephone or personal interviews. This issue contains the results of monthly and quarterly surveys including Milk Production, Layer and Egg Production, Potato Stocks and Prices, and the March 2004 Agricultural Survey of Field Crop Acreage Intentions.

IN THIS ISSUE

Chickens: Layers and Eggs

Dairy Products

Field Crops: Corn, Barley, Oats, Hay, and Tobacco

Milk: Monthly Production and Price; Annual Production, Disposition, and Price

Potatoes: Stocks and Prices

POTATO STOCKS: Maine potato stocks on hand April 1, 2004, totaled 6.5 million hundredweight (cwt), three percent above 2003's April 1 holdings. Disappearance to April 1 in Maine totaled 10.5 million cwt, compared with 10.7 million cwt a year earlier. Participation in USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program to spread low quality potatoes on fields by the end of March to avoid disease and environmental problems, allowed stocks levels to drop to within 200,000 cwt of the previous year. The March 1 current to previous year spread was 900,000 cwt. Storage accounted for 38 percent of Maine's total production, compared with the previous five-year average of 36 percent. The price received for 2003 crop potatoes across all sales (fresh market, processed, and seed) averaged \$5.70 per cwt during February 2004, below the previous year's \$7.10 per cwt and five-year average of \$6.82 per cwt.

The 15 major potato States held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2004, up less than one percent from last year and five percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Disappearance of 278 million cwt of potatoes was down one percent from last year but four percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 25.0 million cwt so far this season, was up four percent from last year and six percent above the same date in 2002. Processors in the nine major States used 137 million cwt of potatoes this season, down four percent from a year ago but four percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 30.3 million cwt of the total processing, down five percent from last year.

NEW ENGLAND FIELD CROP ACREAGE INTENTIONS

FOR 2003: New England intentions for March 1, 2004 indicated farmers plan to reduce plantings of field corn in the region and decrease acreage harvested for dry hay. The intentions survey conducted in March represents the acreage farmers intend to plant and/or harvest as of March 1. New England farmers expect to plant 185,000 acres of **field corn** in 2004, a reduction of 6,000 acres from the previous year's plantings. New England farm operators intend to harvest 573,000 acres of **dry hay** in 2004, compared with 576,000 acres harvested the previous year. **Oat** growers in Maine plan to seed 30,000 acres in 2004 and harvest 29,000 acres for grain. Maine's **barley** producers intend to seed 28,000 acres in 2004. **Broadleaf tobacco** for harvest in Connecticut and Massachusetts in 2004 was forecast at 2,350 acres. Grower intentions placed 2004 **shade tobacco** acreage for harvest in the two States at 1,150 acres.

UNITED STATES FIELD CROP ACREAGE INTENTIONS

FOR 2004: Corn planted area for all purposes was estimated at 79.0 million acres, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003. Expected acreage was up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt as growers were hoping to take advantage of higher corn prices. However, most States in the Southeast and southern Great Plains intend to decrease their corn plantings as producers were switching to soybeans and cotton due to more favorable prices relative to corn. **Soybean** growers intend to plant an estimated 75.4 million acres, up three percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record and a rebound from the three year decline in acreage. Growers in all States, except South Dakota and Wisconsin, intend to plant more than or at least as many acres of soybeans as last year. Current high prices were encouraging many producers to plant more soybeans, with the largest acreage increases expected in North Dakota, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Minnesota. **All wheat** planted area was expected to total 59.5 million acres in 2004, down four percent from 2003. **Winter wheat** planted area for the 2004 crop was 43.4

million acres, down three percent from 2003. Of the total, about 30.9 million acres were Hard Red Winter, 8.3 million acres were Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres were White Winter. The 2004 **other spring wheat** planted acreage was estimated at 13.3 million, down four percent from last year. Of the total, about 12.7 million acres were Hard Red Spring wheat. Area planted to **Durum wheat** was intended to total 2.76 million acres, down five percent from a year ago.

ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION AND VALUE: Milk production in **New England** during 2003 totaled 4.3 billion pounds, a decrease of four percent from the previous year. The annual average number of milk cows in 2003 was 242,300 head down five percent from the previous year. Annual production per cow averaged 17,883 pounds, which set a record high milk rate per cow in New England. Cash receipts from all milk sales in 2003 totaled 571.6 million dollars, one percent less than sales in 2002. New England dairy producers received an average of \$13.29 per hundredweight for all milk sold in 2003 an increase of 39 cents per hundredweight from the previous year's average price.

Milk Production in the **United States** totaled 170 billion pounds in 2003 unchanged from the 2002 total. The annual average number of milk cows on the Nation's farms in 2003 was 9.08 million head, a decrease of less than one percent the previous year's total. The annual average production rate per cow in 2003 was 18,749 pounds, an increase of 141 pounds per cow from the previous year's rate. Cash receipts from all milk sales during 2003 was \$21.2 billion, a three percent increase from the previous year's sales. The

Nation's dairy farmers received an average return of \$12.55 per hundredweight, an increase of 37 cents per hundredweight from 2002's average price.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** totaled 222 million pounds in March 2004, a decrease of four percent from March 2003. There were an estimated 144,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during March 2004, a decrease of 1,000 milk cows from the previous month, and a decrease of 7,000 milk cows from March 2003. Milk production per cow for the month averaged 1,540 pounds, an increase of five pounds from March 2003.

Milk production during the first quarter (January - March) of 2004 totaled 1.10 billion pounds in **New England**, a decrease of four percent from the same period last year. There were an estimated 234,200 milk cows on New England farms, a decrease of 2,100 milk cows from the fourth quarter of 2003 and a decrease of 14,200 milk cows from the same period a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 4,527 pounds for the first quarter of 2004.

Milk production in the **United States** during the first quarter of this year totaled 43 billion pounds, a decrease of one percent from the first quarter of 2003. There were 9.0 million milk cows in the United States during the first quarter of the year, a slight decrease from the same quarter last year. The United States average quarterly rate was 4,747 pounds per cow for the first quarter of 2004.

FIELD CORN and DRY HAY 2003 Acreage and 2004 Intentions

State	Corn Planted for All Purposes			All Dry Hay Harvested		
	2003	2004 Intentions as of Mar 1	2004 as Percentage of 2003	2003	2004 Intentions as of Mar 1	2004 as Percentage of 2003
	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Percent	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Percent
Connecticut	30	30	100	60	65	108
Maine	28	28	100	128	125	98
Massachusetts	20	20	100	90	80	89
New Hampshire	15	15	100	55	55	100
Rhode Island	2	2	100	8	8	100
Vermont	96	90	94	235	240	102
NEW ENGLAND	191	185	97	576	573	99
UNITED STATES	78,736	79,004	100	63,342	63,731	101

SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

OATS and BARLEY 2003 Acreage and 2004 Intentions

State	Oats Planted for All Purposes			Oats Harvested for Grain			Barley Planted for All Purposes		
	2003	2004 Intentions as of Mar 1	2004 as Percentage of 2003	2003	2004 Intentions as of Mar 1	2004 as Percentage of 2003	2003	2004 Intentions as of Mar 1	2004 as Percentage of 2003
	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Percent	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Percent	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Percent
Maine	31	30	97	30	29	97	28	28	100
UNITED STATES	4,601	4,312	94	2,224	2,067	93	5,299	4,683	88

SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

TOBACCO 2002 - 2003 Acreage Harvested and 2004 Intentions

State and Type	Tobacco Harvested			
	2002	2003	2004 ^{1/} Intentions as of Mar 1	2004 as Percentage of 2003
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent
Broadleaf (Type 51)				
Connecticut	1,350	1,400	1,500	107
Massachusetts	850	950	850	89
CT and MA Total	2,200	2,350	2,350	100
Shade (Type 61)				
Connecticut	650	800	850	106
Massachusetts	310	280	300	107
CT and MA Total	960	1,080	1,150	106
United States (All Types)	428,310	416,210	414,550	100

^{1/} Area intended for harvest in 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Production and April 1 Stocks ^{1/}, 2003 - 2004

State	2002 Crop			2003 Crop		
	Production	Stocks April 1, 2003	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks April 1, 2004	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	Percent
California ^{2/}	4,316	1,600	37	3,444	1,500	44
Colorado	27,885	9,900	36	23,652	7,000	30
Idaho	133,385	49,000	37	123,180	46,500	38
Maine	16,960	6,300	37	17,030	6,500	38
Michigan	13,878	2,900	21	15,015	3,100	21
Minnesota ^{2/}	18,810	6,100	32	22,330	7,600	34
Montana	3,224	1,900	59	3,339	2,100	63
Nebraska	8,611	^{3/}		9,860	^{3/}	
New York	5,500	220	4	6,510	750	12
North Dakota	23,460	7,900	34	27,440	11,200	41
Ohio ^{2/}	902	^{3/}		1,290	^{3/}	
Oregon	24,936	7,500	30	20,991	8,300	40
Pennsylvania ^{2/}	2,128	400	19	3,915	500	13
Washington ^{2/}	92,340	23,000	25	93,150	21,500	23
Wisconsin ^{2/}	30,750	7,100	23	32,800	7,300	22
Other States		2,050			2,560	
15 STATES ^{2/}	407,085	125,870	31	403,946	126,410	31

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant the 2004 crop; 2003 crop seed usage for all seasons totaled 28.3 million cwt.

^{2/} 2002 production revised in **Field Crops, Final Estimates 1997-2002** publication released March 17, 2004. Stocks will be revised in **Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes, Final Estimates 1997-2002** publication tentatively scheduled for release August 20, 2004.

^{3/} Combined into "Other States."

SOURCE: **Potato Stocks**, 3:00 p.m., April 14, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

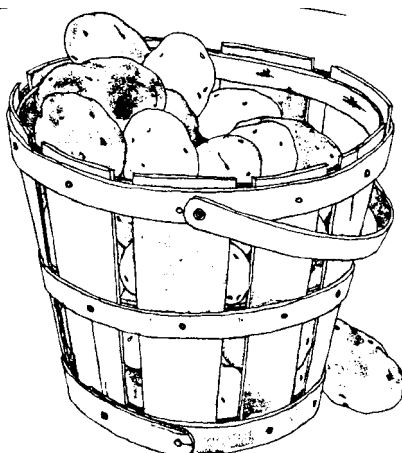
MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1998 - 2003 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average										
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt
1998	6.25	5.40	5.70	5.85	5.90	6.15	6.45	6.90	7.45	7.05	6.45
1999	5.80	5.30	5.45	6.35	6.45	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.80	6.60	6.35
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	6.15
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.65
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.05
2003 ^{2/}	6.15	5.25	5.45	5.90	5.75	5.85	5.70	5.95			

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., March 30, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 1999 - 2004

Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold to Plants												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt	Dollars per Cwt
1999	18.20	16.60	16.50	13.90	13.90	14.10	14.50	14.90	16.20	16.30	16.30	13.90	15.40
2000	13.40	13.40	13.50	13.40	13.50	13.80	13.50	13.80	14.00	14.00	14.30	14.60	13.80
2001	13.70	14.30	15.00	15.40	16.20	16.80	17.00	17.30	17.90	16.40	15.80	14.10	15.80
2002	14.20	13.80	13.30	13.10	12.70	12.10	11.60	11.70	12.00	12.50	12.50	12.40	12.70
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	12.00	13.20	14.90	15.60	15.30	14.70	3/
2004 ^{2/}	13.90	14.20	14.80										

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

^{3/} 2003 annual average will be available in May 2004.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., March 30, 2004 National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, March 2004 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004	Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds
Vermont	151	145	144	1,535	1,435	1,540	232	208	222
New York	680	660	660	1,540	1,400	1,510	1,047	924	997
Pennsylvania	585	564	564	1,600	1,425	1,570	936	804	885
UNITED STATES ^{2/}	7,810	7,716	7,714	1,666	1,528	1,656	13,014	11,787	12,776

^{1/} Average number for month, including dry cows.

^{2/} United States includes 20 major States: AZ, CA, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 p.m., April 16, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

QUARTERLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, January - March 2004 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	Jan - Mar 2003	Oct - Dec 2003	Jan - Mar 2004	Jan - Mar 2003	Oct - Dec 2003	Jan - Mar 2004	Jan - Mar 2003	Oct - Dec 2003	Jan - Mar 2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds
Connecticut	23.0	21.0	21.0	4,720	4,700	4,850	109.0	99.0	102.0
Maine	35.0	34.0	34.0	4,420	4,450	4,450	155.0	151.0	151.0
Massachusetts	20.0	18.0	17.0	4,400	4,420	4,440	88.0	76.0	75.0
New Hampshire	17.0	16.0	16.0	4,670	4,590	4,780	79.0	73.0	76.0
Rhode Island	1.4	1.3	1.2	4,170	3,880	4,300	5.8	5.0	5.2
Vermont	152.0	146.0	145.0	4,401	4,384	4,490	669.0	640.0	651.0
NEW ENGLAND	248.4	236.3	234.2	4,452	4,418	4,527	1,105.8	1,044.0	1,060.2
UNITED STATES	9,144.0	9,011.0	8,991.0	4,710	4,609	4,747	43,069.0	41,532.0	42,688.0

^{1/} Average number for quarter, including dry cows.

SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 p.m., April 16, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ANNUAL MILK: Production and Value, 2003

State	Average Number of Milk Cows	Production of Milk and Milkfat					
		Per Milk Cow		Percentage of Fat in All Milk Produced	Total		Value of Milk Produced ^{1/}
		Milk	Milkfat		Milk	Milkfat	
	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	1,000 Dollars
Connecticut	22.0	18,773	695	3.70	413	15.3	56,168
Maine	35.0	17,829	660	3.70	624	23.1	88,608
Massachusetts	19.0	17,474	652	3.73	332	12.4	43,824
New Hampshire	16.0	19,063	719	3.77	305	11.5	41,480
Rhode Island	1.3	16,923	633	3.74	22	0.8	2,882
Vermont	149.0	17,698	662	3.74	2,637	98.6	342,810
NEW ENGLAND	242.3	17,883	667	3.73	4,333	161.7	575,772
UNITED STATES	9,084.0	18,749	688	3.67	170,312	6,245.6	21,369,706

^{1/} Value at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. Value equals cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home consumption plus value of milk fed to calves.

SOURCE: *Milk Production, Disposition, and Income*, 3:00 p.m., April 28, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ANNUAL MILK: Milk and Cream Marketings, Price and Income, 2003

State	Milk Utilized ^{1/}	Percent Fluid Grade ^{2/}	Average Returns ^{3/}		Cash Receipts from Marketings
			Per Cwt Milk	Per Lb Milkfat	
	Million Pounds	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Connecticut	410.0	100	13.60	3.68	55,760
Maine	619.0	100	14.20	3.84	87,898
Massachusetts	328.0	100	13.20	3.54	43,296
New Hampshire	302.0	100	13.60	3.61	41,072
Rhode Island	21.9	100	13.10	3.50	2,869
Vermont	2,621.0	100	13.00	3.48	340,730
NEW ENGLAND	4,301.9	100	13.29	3.56	571,625
UNITED STATES	169,198.0	98	12.55	3.42	21,227,695

^{1/} Milk sold to plants and dealers as whole milk and equivalent amounts of milk for cream. Includes milk produced by dealers' own herds and small amounts sold directly to consumers. Also includes milk produced by institutional herds.

^{2/} Percentage of milk sold that is eligible for fluid use (grade A in most States). Includes fluid-grade milk used in manufacturing dairy products.

^{3/} Cash receipts divided by milk or milkfat in combined marketings.

SOURCE: *Milk Production, Disposition, and Income*, 3:00 p.m., April 28, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ANNUAL MILK: Milk Used Where Produced and Gross Producer Income, 2003

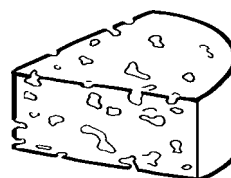
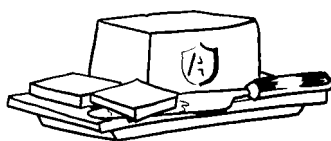
State	Milk Used Where Produced				
	Total	Fed to Calves ^{1/}	Used for Milk, Cream and Butter (Home Consumption)		Gross Producer Income ^{3/}
			Milk Utilized	Value ^{2/}	
	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Connecticut	3.0	2.5	0.5	68	55,828
Maine	5.0	4.5	0.5	71	87,969
Massachusetts	4.0	3.0	1.0	132	43,428
New Hampshire	3.0	2.5	0.5	68	41,140
Rhode Island	0.1	0.1	--	--	2,869
Vermont	16.0	14.0	2.0	260	340,990
NEW ENGLAND	31.1	26.6	4.5	599	572,224
UNITED STATES	1,114.0	963.0	151.0	19,257	21,246,952

^{1/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

^{2/} Value at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream.

^{3/} Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home consumption.

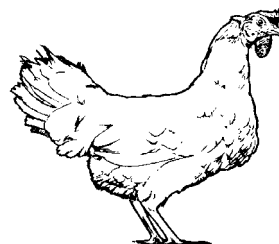
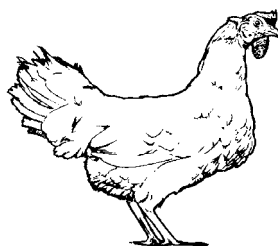
SOURCE: *Milk Production, Disposition, and Income*, 3:00 p.m., April 28, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, February 2004

with Comparisons

Product	February 2003	January 2004	February 2004	February 2004 as percent of:	
				February 2003	January 2004
	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Percent	Percent
Butter	3,908	4,310	2,982	75	68
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	5,803	5,961	5,780	100	97
Mozzarella Cheese	4,817	5,266	5,771	120	110
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	465	555	524	113	94
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	505	574	610	121	106
	1,000 Gallons	1,000 Gallons	1,000 Gallons	Percent	Percent
Ice Cream, Hard	7,985	7,147	6,898	86	97
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	403	668	704	175	105
Milk Sherbet, Hard	176	266	188	107	71

^{1/} American Type Cheese includes cheddars, Colby, washed curd, stirred curd, Monterey and Jack.^{2/} Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.^{3/} Creamed and lowfat.SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., April 4, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, March, 2003 - 2004

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ^{1/}		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ^{1/}		Egg Production from All Layers ^{1/}	
	March 2003	March 2004	March 2003	March 2004	March 2003	March 2004	March 2003	March 2004
	1,000 Birds	1,000 Birds	1,000 Birds	1,000 Birds	Number	Number	Million Eggs	Million Eggs
Connecticut	2,929	2,775	2,986	2,827	2,210	2,441	66	69
Maine	4,197	3,959	4,248	4,002	2,331	2,299	99	92
UNITED STATES	273,754	275,574	339,885	340,835	2,184	2,209	7,424	7,530

^{1/} Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.SOURCE: *Chickens and Eggs*, 3:00 p.m., April 23, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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